



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 20

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 5510

House of Representatives, March 7, 2023

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through REP. NOLAN of the 39th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE IN REFERENCES TO THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2023*):

4 (a) As used in the general statutes, except chapter 504, and except as
5 otherwise provided: (1) "Armed forces" means the United States Army,
6 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, [and] Air Force and Space Force and
7 any reserve component thereof, including the Connecticut National
8 Guard performing duty as provided in Title 32 of the United States
9 Code, as amended from time to time; (2) "veteran" means any person
10 honorably discharged from, released under honorable conditions from
11 or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a
12 qualifying condition from, active service in, the armed forces; (3)
13 "service in time of war" means service of ninety or more cumulative days

14 during a period of war unless separated from service earlier because of
15 an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or a service-
16 connected disability rated by the United States Department of Veterans
17 Affairs, except that if the period of war lasted less than ninety days,
18 "service in time of war" means service for the entire period of war unless
19 separated because of any such injury or disability; (4) "period of war"
20 has the same meaning as provided in 38 USC 101, as amended from time
21 to time, except that the "Vietnam Era" means the period beginning on
22 February 28, 1961, and ending on July 1, 1975, in all cases; and "period
23 of war" shall include service while engaged in combat or a combat
24 support role in Lebanon, July 1, 1958, to November 1, 1958, or September
25 29, 1982, to March 30, 1984; Grenada, October 25, 1983, to December 15,
26 1983; Operation Earnest Will, involving the escort of Kuwaiti oil tankers
27 flying the United States flag in the Persian Gulf, July 24, 1987, to August
28 1, 1990; Panama, December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990; Afghanistan,
29 October 24, 2001, to August 30, 2021; and Iraq, March 19, 2003, to
30 December 31, 2011, or June 1, 2014, to December 9, 2021, and shall
31 include service during such periods with the armed forces of any
32 government associated with the United States; and (5) "qualifying
33 condition" means (A) a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or
34 traumatic brain injury made by an individual licensed to provide health
35 care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility,
36 (B) an experience of military sexual trauma, as described in 38 USC
37 1720D, as amended from time to time, disclosed to an individual
38 licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department
39 of Veterans Affairs facility, or (C) a determination that sexual
40 orientation, gender identity or gender expression was more likely than
41 not the primary reason for an other than honorable discharge, as
42 determined in accordance with subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

43 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 1-219 of the general statutes is
44 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
45 *1, 2023*):

46 (a) As used in this section: (1) "Armed forces" means the Army, Navy,
47 Marine Corps, Coast Guard, [or] Air Force or Space Force of the United

48 States; (2) "veteran" means any person honorably discharged from, or
49 released under honorable conditions from active service or reserve
50 status in the armed forces; (3) "military discharge document" means a
51 United States Department of Defense form, including, but not limited
52 to, a DD 214 form, or any valid paper that evidences the service,
53 discharge or retirement of a veteran from the armed forces that contains
54 personal information such as a service number or Social Security
55 number; (4) "person" means any individual or entity, including, but not
56 limited to, a relative of a veteran, a licensed funeral director or
57 embalmer, an attorney-at-law, an attorney-in-fact, an insurance
58 company or a veterans' advocate; and (5) "public agency" or "agency"
59 means a public agency, as defined in section 1-200.

60 Sec. 3. Section 9-24 of the general statutes is repealed and the
61 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

62 As used in sections 9-25 to 9-31, inclusive, the term "members of the
63 armed forces" shall include members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps,
64 Coast Guard, Air Force, Space Force or Merchant Marine of the United
65 States, or any of their respective components.

66 Sec. 4. Section 9-134 of the general statutes is repealed and the
67 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

68 The term "members of the armed forces", wherever used in this
69 chapter, means members in active service of the Army, Navy, Air Force,
70 Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, Coast and Geodetic Survey,
71 Public Health Service and Merchant Marine of the United States, and all
72 regular and reserve components thereof. The term "members of the
73 Merchant Marine of the United States", wherever used in this chapter,
74 means persons employed as officers or members of crews of vessels
75 documented under the laws of the United States, or of vessels owned by
76 the United States, or of vessels of foreign-flag registry under charter to
77 or control of the United States, and persons enrolled with the United
78 States for employment, or for training for employment, or maintained
79 by the United States for emergency relief service, as officers or members
80 of crews of any such vessels; but does not mean persons so employed,

81 or enrolled for such employment or for training for such employment,
82 or maintained for such emergency relief service, on the Great Lakes or
83 the inland waterways. The term "United States", wherever used
84 geographically in this chapter, includes the territorial limits of the states
85 of the United States and the District of Columbia.

86 Sec. 5. Section 27-102b of the general statutes is repealed and the
87 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

88 Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any
89 regulation of Connecticut state agencies, a state agency or board that
90 issues licenses or certificates for which professional training, schooling
91 or apprenticeship is required shall provide credits or exemptions from
92 requirements toward licensure or certification for any applicant who
93 received applicable training, schooling or experience while serving as a
94 member of the armed forces. An applicant shall not be required to repeat
95 any substantively similar training or schooling required for licensure or
96 certification. Credits or exemptions from requirements toward licenses
97 or certificates awarded by the constituent units of the state system of
98 public higher education pursuant to this section shall be granted in a
99 manner consistent with (1) guidelines established by the American
100 Council on Education, (2) the constituent units' transfer credit policies,
101 and (3) 38 CFR 21.4253 and 38 CFR 21.4254. For purposes of this section,
102 "armed forces" means the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps,
103 Coast Guard, [and] Air Force and Space Force and any reserve
104 component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard and the
105 state militia.

106 Sec. 6. Subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 31-3uu of the
107 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
108 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

109 (7) "Armed Forces" means the United States Army, Navy, Marine
110 Corps, Coast Guard, [and] Air Force and Space Force and any reserve
111 component thereof, including a state National Guard performing duty
112 as provided in Title 32 of the United States Code.

113 Sec. 7. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 46b-56e of the
114 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
115 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

116 (1) "Armed forces" means the United States Army, Navy, Marine
117 Corps, Coast Guard, [and] Air Force and Space Force and any reserve
118 component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard
119 performing duty as provided in Title 32 of the United States Code;

120 Sec. 8. Subsection (c) of section 51-49h of the general statutes is
121 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
122 *1, 2023*):

123 (c) For the purposes of this section: (1) "Armed forces" means the
124 United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, [and] Air Force
125 and Space Force; (2) "veteran" has the same meaning as provided in
126 section 27-103, as amended by this act; and (3) "military service" shall be
127 service during World War II, December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946;
128 the Korean hostilities, June 27, 1950, to October 27, 1953; and the
129 Vietnam era, January 1, 1964, to July 1, 1975, and shall include service as
130 a prisoner of war.

131 Sec. 9. Section 1-24 of the general statutes is repealed and the
132 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

133 The following officers may administer oaths: (1) The clerks of the
134 Senate, the clerks of the House of Representatives and the chairpersons
135 of committees of the General Assembly or of either branch thereof,
136 during its session; (2) state officers, as defined in subsection (t) of section
137 9-1, judges and clerks of any court, family support magistrates, judge
138 trial referees, justices of the peace, commissioners of the Superior Court,
139 notaries public, town clerks and assistant town clerks, in all cases where
140 an oath may be administered, except in a case where the law otherwise
141 requires; (3) commissioners on insolvent estates, auditors, arbitrators
142 and committees, to parties and witnesses, in all cases tried before them;
143 (4) assessors and boards of assessment appeals, in cases coming before
144 them; (5) commissioners appointed by governors of other states to take

145 the acknowledgment of deeds, in the discharge of their official duty; (6)
146 the moderator of a school district meeting, in such meeting, to the clerk
147 of such district, as required by law; (7) the chief elected official of a
148 municipality, in any matter before the chief elected official of a
149 municipality; (8) the Chief Medical Examiner, Deputy Medical
150 Examiner and assistant medical examiners of the Office of the Medical
151 Examiner, in any matter before them; (9) registrars of vital statistics, in
152 any matter before them; (10) any chief inspector or inspector appointed
153 pursuant to section 51-286; (11) registrars of voters, deputy registrars,
154 assistant registrars, and moderators, in any matter before them; (12)
155 special assistant registrars, in matters provided for in subsections (b)
156 and (c) of section 9-19b and section 9-19c; (13) the Commissioner of
157 Emergency Services and Public Protection and any sworn member of
158 any local police department or the Division of State Police within the
159 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in all
160 affidavits, statements, depositions, complaints or reports made to or by
161 any member of any local police department or said Division of State
162 Police or any constable who is under the supervision of said
163 commissioner or any of such officers of said Division of State Police and
164 who is certified under the provisions of sections 7-294a to 7-294e,
165 inclusive, and performs criminal law enforcement duties; (14) judge
166 advocates of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, [and] Marine
167 Corps and Space Force, law specialists of the United States Coast Guard,
168 adjutants, assistant adjutants, acting adjutants and personnel adjutants,
169 commanding officers, executive officers and officers whose rank is
170 lieutenant commander or major, or above, of the armed forces, as
171 defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, to persons serving
172 with or in the armed forces, as defined in said section, or their spouses;
173 (15) investigators, deputy investigators, investigative aides, secretaries,
174 clerical assistants, social workers, social worker trainees, paralegals and
175 certified legal interns employed by or assigned to the Public Defender
176 Services Commission in the performance of their assigned duties; (16)
177 bail commissioners, intake, assessment and referral specialists, family
178 relations counselors, support enforcement officers, chief probation
179 officers and supervisory judicial marshals employed by the Judicial

180 Department in the performance of their assigned duties; (17) juvenile
181 matter investigators employed by the Division of Criminal Justice in the
182 performance of their assigned duties; (18) the chairperson of the
183 Connecticut Siting Council or the chairperson's designee; (19) the
184 presiding officer at an agency hearing under section 4-177b; (20)
185 investigators employed by the Department of Social Services Office of
186 Child Support Services, in the performance of their assigned duties; (21)
187 the chairperson, vice-chairperson, members and employees of the Board
188 of Pardons and Paroles, in the performance of their assigned duties; (22)
189 the Commissioner of Correction or the commissioner's designee; (23)
190 sworn law enforcement officers, appointed under section 26-5, within
191 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, in all
192 affidavits, statements, depositions, complaints or reports made to or by
193 any such sworn law enforcement officer; (24) sworn motor vehicle
194 inspectors acting under the authority of section 14-8; and (25) eligibility
195 workers, specialists and supervisors employed by the Department of
196 Social Services for the sole purpose of witnessing the execution of an
197 affirmation or acknowledgment of parentage when their assigned
198 duties include witnessing such execution.

199 Sec. 10. Section 1-38 of the general statutes is repealed and the
200 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

201 In addition to the acknowledgment of instruments in the manner and
202 form and as otherwise authorized by this chapter, persons serving in or
203 with the armed forces of the United States or their dependents,
204 wherever located, may acknowledge the same before any commissioned
205 officer in active service of the armed forces of the United States with the
206 rank of second lieutenant or higher in the Army, Air Force, [or] Marine
207 Corps or Space Force, or ensign or higher in the Navy or Coast Guard.
208 The instrument shall not be rendered invalid by the failure to state
209 therein the place of execution or acknowledgment. No authentication of
210 the officer's certificate of acknowledgment shall be required but the
211 officer taking the acknowledgment shall endorse thereon or attach
212 thereto a certificate substantially in the following form:

213 On this the day of ..., 20.., before me, ..., the undersigned officer,
214 personally appeared (Serial No.) (if any) ..., known to me (or
215 satisfactorily proven) to be (serving in or with the armed forces of the
216 United States) (a dependent of ..., (Serial No.) (if any) ..., a person
217 serving in or with the armed forces of the United States) and to be the
218 person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and
219 acknowledged that he executed the same for the purposes therein
220 contained. And the undersigned does further certify that he is at the date
221 of this certificate a commissioned officer of the rank stated below and is
222 in the active service of the armed forces of the United States.

223

224 Signature of the Officer

225

226 Rank and Serial No. of Officer

227 and Command to which attached.

228 Sec. 11. Subdivisions (20) to (26), inclusive, of section 12-81 of the
229 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
230 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

231 (20) Subject to the provisions hereinafter stated, property not
232 exceeding three thousand five hundred dollars in amount shall be
233 exempt from taxation, which property belongs to, or is held in trust for,
234 any resident of this state who has served, or is serving, in the Army,
235 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, [or] Air Force or Space Force of the
236 United States and (1) has a disability rating by the United States
237 Department of Veterans Affairs amounting to ten per cent or more of
238 total disability, provided such exemption shall be two thousand dollars
239 in any case in which such rating is between ten per cent and twenty-five
240 per cent; two thousand five hundred dollars in any case in which such
241 rating is more than twenty-five per cent but not more than fifty per cent;
242 three thousand dollars in any case in which such rating is more than
243 fifty per cent but not more than seventy-five per cent; and three

244 thousand five hundred dollars in any case in which such person has
245 attained sixty-five years of age or such rating is more than seventy-five
246 per cent; or (2) is receiving a pension, annuity or compensation from the
247 United States because of the loss in service of a leg or arm or that which
248 is considered by the rules of the United States Pension Office or the
249 Bureau of War Risk Insurance the equivalent of such loss. If such veteran
250 lacks such amount of property in his or her name, so much of the
251 property belonging to, or held in trust for, his or her spouse, who is
252 domiciled with him or her, as is necessary to equal such amount shall
253 also be so exempt. When any veteran entitled to an exemption under the
254 provisions of this section has died, property belonging to, or held in
255 trust for, his or her surviving spouse, while such spouse remains a
256 widow or widower, or belonging to or held in trust for his or her minor
257 children during their minority, or both, while they are residents of this
258 state, shall be exempt in the same aggregate amount as that to which the
259 disabled veteran was or would have been entitled at the time of his or
260 her death. No individual entitled to exemption under this subdivision
261 and under one or more of subdivisions (19), (22), (23), (25) and (26) of
262 this section shall receive more than one exemption. No individual shall
263 receive any exemption to which he or she is entitled under this
264 subdivision until he or she has complied with section 12-95 and has
265 submitted proof of his or her disability rating, as determined by the
266 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, to the assessor of the
267 town in which the exemption is sought. If there is no change to an
268 individual's disability rating, such proof shall not be required for any
269 assessment year following that for which the exemption under this
270 subdivision is granted initially. If the United States Department of
271 Veterans Affairs modifies a veteran's disability rating, such
272 modification shall be deemed a waiver of the right to such exemption
273 until proof of disability rating is submitted to the assessor and the right
274 to such exemption is established as required initially. Any person who
275 has been unable to submit evidence of disability rating in the manner
276 required by this subdivision, or who has failed to submit such evidence
277 as provided in section 12-95, may, when he or she obtains such evidence,
278 make application to the collector of taxes within one year after he or she

279 obtains such proof or within one year after the expiration of the time
280 limited in section 12-95, as the case may be, for abatement in case the tax
281 has not been paid, or for refund in case the whole tax has been paid, of
282 such part or the whole of such tax as represents the service exemption.
283 Such abatement or refund may be granted retroactively to include the
284 assessment day next succeeding the date as of which such person was
285 entitled to such disability rating as determined by the United States
286 Department of Veterans Affairs, but in no case shall any abatement or
287 refund be made for a period greater than three years. The collector shall,
288 after examination of such application, refer the same, with his
289 recommendations thereon, to the board of selectmen of a town or to the
290 corresponding authority of any other municipality, and shall certify to
291 the amount of abatement or refund to which the applicant is entitled.
292 Upon receipt of such application and certification, the selectmen or
293 other duly constituted authority shall, in case the tax has not been paid,
294 issue a certificate of abatement or, in case the whole tax has been paid,
295 draw an order upon the treasurer in favor of such applicant for the
296 amount without interest which represents the service exemption. Any
297 action so taken by such selectmen or other authority shall be a matter of
298 record and the tax collector shall be notified in writing of such action;

299 (21) The dwelling house, and the lot whereupon the same is erected,
300 belonging to or held in trust for any person who is a citizen and resident
301 of this state, occupied as such person's domicile, shall be exempt from
302 local property taxation to the extent of ten thousand dollars of its
303 assessed valuation or, lacking said amount in property in such person's
304 own name, so much of the property belonging to, or held in trust for,
305 such person's spouse, who is domiciled with such person, as is
306 necessary to equal said amount, if such person is a veteran who served
307 in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, [or] Air Force or Space
308 Force of the United States and has been declared by the United States
309 Department of Veterans Affairs or its successors to have a service-
310 connected disability from paraplegia or osteochondritis resulting in
311 permanent loss of the use of both legs or permanent paralysis of both
312 legs and lower parts of the body; or from hemiplegia and has permanent
313 paralysis of one leg and one arm or either side of the body resulting from

314 injury to the spinal cord, skeletal structure or brain or from disease of
315 the spinal cord not resulting from any form of syphilis; or from total
316 blindness as defined in section 12-92; or from the amputation of both
317 arms, both legs, both hands or both feet, or the combination of a hand
318 and a foot; sustained through enemy action, or resulting from accident
319 occurring or disease contracted in such active service. Nothing in this
320 subdivision shall be construed to include paraplegia or hemiplegia
321 resulting from locomotor ataxia or other forms of syphilis of the central
322 nervous system, or from chronic alcoholism, or to include other forms
323 of disease resulting from the veteran's own misconduct which may
324 produce signs and symptoms similar to those resulting from paraplegia,
325 osteochondritis or hemiplegia. The loss of the use of one arm or one leg
326 because of service related injuries specified in this subdivision shall
327 qualify a veteran for a property tax exemption in the same manner as
328 hereinabove, provided such exemption shall be for five thousand
329 dollars;

330 (B) The exemption provided for in this subdivision shall be in
331 addition to any other exemption of such person's real and personal
332 property allowed by law, but no taxpayer shall be allowed more than
333 one exemption under this subdivision. No person shall be entitled to
334 receive any exemption under this subdivision until such person has
335 satisfied the requirements of subdivision (20) of this section. The
336 surviving spouse of any such person who at the time of such person's
337 death was entitled to and had the exemption provided under this
338 subdivision shall be entitled to the same exemption, (i) while such
339 spouse remains a widow or widower, or (ii) upon the termination of any
340 subsequent marriage of such spouse by dissolution, annulment or death
341 and while a resident of this state, for the time that such person is the
342 legal owner of and actually occupies a dwelling house and premises
343 intended to be exempted hereunder. When the property which is the
344 subject of the claim for exemption provided for in this subdivision is
345 greater than a single family house, the assessor shall aggregate the
346 assessment on the lot and building and allow an exemption of that
347 percentage of the aggregate assessment which the value of the portion
348 of the building occupied by the claimant bears to the value of the entire

349 building;

350 (C) Subject to the approval of the legislative body of the municipality,
351 the dwelling house and the lot whereupon the same is erected,
352 belonging to or held in trust for any citizen and resident of this state,
353 occupied as such person's domicile shall be fully exempt from local
354 property taxation, if such person is a veteran who served in the Army,
355 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, [or] Air Force or Space Force of the
356 United States and has received financial assistance for specially adapted
357 housing under the provisions of Section 801 of Title 38 of the United
358 States Code, as amended from time to time, and has applied such
359 assistance toward the acquisition or modification of such dwelling
360 house. The same exemption may also be allowed on such housing units
361 owned by the surviving spouse of such veteran (i) while such spouse
362 remains a widow or widower, or (ii) upon the termination of any
363 subsequent marriage of such spouse by dissolution, annulment or
364 death, or by such veteran and spouse while occupying such premises as
365 a residence;

366 (22) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95,
367 property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held in
368 trust for, any surviving spouse while such person remains a widow or
369 widower, or a minor child or both, residing in this state, of one who has
370 served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, [or] Air Force
371 or Space Force of the United States, or any citizen of the United States
372 who served in the military or naval service of a government allied or
373 associated with the United States, as provided by subdivision (19) of this
374 section, and who has died either during his or her term of service or after
375 becoming a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act,
376 provided such amount shall be three thousand dollars if death was due
377 to service and occurred while on active duty;

378 (23) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95,
379 property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held in
380 trust for, any surviving spouse, while such spouse remains a widow or
381 widower, resident of this state, of one who has served in the Army,

382 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, [or] Air Force or Space Force of the
383 United States, which surviving spouse is receiving or has received a
384 pension, annuity or compensation from the United States;

385 (24) The exemption from taxation granted by subdivision (22) of this
386 section, to the amount of three thousand dollars allowable to the widow
387 or widower or minor child or both of a veteran whose death was due to
388 service and occurred on active duty shall be granted to any widow or
389 widower drawing compensation from the United States Department of
390 Veterans Affairs, upon verification of such fact by letter from said
391 department;

392 (25) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95,
393 property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held in
394 trust for, a sole surviving parent, while such parent remains a widow or
395 widower, resident of this state, of one who has left no widow or
396 widower, or whose widow or widower has remarried or died, and who
397 has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, [or] Air
398 Force or Space Force of the United States as provided by subdivision
399 (19) of this section and has died during his or her term of service or after
400 becoming a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act,
401 provided property belonging to, or held in trust for, such parent of more
402 than one serviceman or servicewoman who has left no widow or
403 widower, or whose widow or widower has remarried or died, and who
404 has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, [or] Air
405 Force or Space Force of the United States as provided in subdivision (19)
406 of this section and has died during his or her term of service shall be
407 subject to an exemption of one thousand dollars for each such
408 serviceman or servicewoman;

409 (26) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95,
410 property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held in
411 trust for, any father or mother, resident of this state, of one who served
412 in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, [or] Air Force or Space
413 Force of the United States as long as such father or mother receives, or
414 has received, a pension, annuity or compensation from the United

415 States; or if such parent lacks said amount of property in his own name,
416 so much of the property belonging to, or held in trust for, his spouse,
417 who is domiciled with him, as is necessary to equal said amount;

418 Sec. 12. Section 12-93 of the general statutes is repealed and the
419 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

420 Any person who claims an exemption from taxation under the
421 provisions of section 12-81, as amended by this act, or 12-82 by reason
422 of service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, [or] Air Force
423 or Space Force of the United States shall give notice to the town clerk of
424 the town in which he resides that he is entitled to such exemption. Any
425 person who has performed such service may establish his right to such
426 exemption by exhibiting to the town clerk an honorable discharge, or a
427 certified copy thereof, from such service or, in the absence of such
428 discharge or copy, by appearing before the assessors for an examination
429 under oath, supported by two affidavits of disinterested persons,
430 showing that the claimant is a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as
431 amended by this act, or is serving or, if he is unable to appear by reason
432 of such service, he may establish such right, until such time as he
433 appears personally and exhibits his discharge or copy, by forwarding to
434 the town clerk annually a written statement, signed by the commanding
435 officer of his unit, ship or station or by some other appropriate officer,
436 or where such claimant is currently serving in an active theater of war
437 or hostilities, by the presentation of a notarized statement of a parent,
438 guardian, spouse or legal representative of such claimant, stating that
439 he is personally serving and is unable to appear in person by reason of
440 such service, which statement shall be received before the assessment
441 day of the town wherein the exemption is claimed. The assessors shall
442 report to the town clerk all claims so established. Any person claiming
443 exemption by reason of the service of a relative as a soldier, sailor,
444 marine or member of the Coast Guard, [or] Air Force or Space Force may
445 establish his right thereto by at least two affidavits of disinterested
446 persons showing the service of such relative, his honorable discharge or
447 death in service, and the relationship of the claimant to him; and the
448 assessors may further require such person to be examined by them

449 under oath concerning such facts. The town clerk of the town where the
450 honorable discharge or certified copy thereof and each affidavit is
451 originally presented for record shall record such discharge or certified
452 copy or affidavits thereof in full and shall list the names of such
453 claimants and such service shall be performed by the town clerk without
454 remuneration therefor. Thereafter if any person entitled to such
455 exemption changes his legal residence, the town clerk in the town of
456 former residence and in which such honorable discharge or certified
457 copy thereof or any such affidavit in respect to such person was
458 originally presented for record shall, upon request and payment of a fee
459 by such person to said town of former residence in an amount
460 determined by the town treasurer as necessary to cover the cost of such
461 procedure, prepare and mail to the town in which such person resides,
462 a copy of the record of such discharge or certified copy thereof or
463 affidavits, or he may establish his right to such exemption in the town
464 in which he resides by exhibiting to the town clerk thereof the original
465 discharge or a certified copy thereof or such affidavits. Said clerk shall
466 take therefrom sufficient data to satisfy the exemption requirements of
467 the general statutes and shall record the same and shall note the town
468 where the original complete recording of discharge papers was made.
469 No board of assessors or board of assessment appeals or other official
470 shall allow any such claim for exemption unless evidence as herein
471 specified has been filed in the office of the town clerk, provided, if any
472 claim for exemption has been allowed by any board of assessors or
473 board of assessment appeals prior to July 1, 1923, the provisions of this
474 section shall not apply to such claim. Each claim granted prior to July 1,
475 1923, shall be recorded with those presented subsequent thereto, and a
476 list of such names, alphabetically arranged, shall be furnished the
477 assessors by the town clerk.

478 Sec. 13. Section 12-94 of the general statutes is repealed and the
479 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

480 The exemptions granted in sections 12-81, as amended by this act, and
481 12-82 to soldiers, sailors, marines and members of the Coast Guard,
482 [and] Air Force and Space Force, and their spouses, widows, widowers,

483 fathers and mothers, and to blind or totally disabled persons and their
484 spouses shall first be made in the town in which the person entitled
485 thereto resides, and any person asking such exemption in any other
486 town shall annually make oath before, or forward his or her affidavit to,
487 the assessors of such town, deposing that such exemptions, except the
488 exemption provided in subdivision (55) of section 12-81, if allowed, will
489 not, together with any other exemptions granted under sections 12-81,
490 as amended by this act, and 12-82, exceed the amount of exemption
491 thereby allowed to such person. Such affidavit shall be filed with the
492 assessors within the period the assessors have to complete their duties
493 in the town where the exemption is claimed. The assessors of each town
494 shall annually make a certified list of all persons who are found to be
495 entitled to exemption under the provisions of said sections, which list
496 shall be filed in the town clerk's office, and shall be prima facie evidence
497 that the persons whose names appear thereon and who are not required
498 by law to give annual proof are entitled to such exemption as long as
499 they continue to reside in such town; but such assessors may, at any
500 time, require any such person to appear before them for the purpose of
501 furnishing additional evidence, provided, any person who by reason of
502 such person's disability is unable to so appear may furnish such
503 assessors a statement from such person's attending physician, physician
504 assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse certifying that such
505 person is totally disabled and is unable to make a personal appearance
506 and such other evidence of total disability as such assessors may deem
507 appropriate.

508 Sec. 14. Section 12-128 of the general statutes is repealed and the
509 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

510 The amount of any tax which has been collected erroneously from
511 any person who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast
512 Guard, [or] Air Force or Space Force of the United States, or from his
513 relative, as specified in section 12-81, as amended by this act, may be
514 recovered from the municipality to which the same has been paid at any
515 time within six years from the date of such payment upon presentation
516 of a claim therefor to the assessor. The assessor shall examine such claim

517 and, upon finding the claimant entitled thereto, shall issue a certificate
518 of correction. Upon the issuance of a certificate of correction, any person
519 taxed in error may make application in writing to the collector of taxes
520 for the refund of the erroneously taxed amount. Such application shall
521 contain a recital of the facts and the amount of the refund requested. The
522 tax collector shall, after examination of such application, refer the same,
523 with the tax collector's recommendations thereon, to the board of
524 selectmen in a town or corresponding authority in any other
525 municipality and certify to the amount of refund, without interest, to
526 which the person is entitled. Any payment for which no timely
527 application is made or granted under this section shall be the property
528 of the municipality.

529 Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 27-122b of the general statutes is
530 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
531 *1, 2023*):

532 (a) As used in this section, "veteran" means any person who is a
533 veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who (1)
534 has completed at least twenty years of qualifying service, as described
535 in and computed under 10 USC Chapter 1223, as amended from time to
536 time, in the Connecticut National Guard; or (2) was killed in action, or
537 who died as a result of accident or illness sustained while performing
538 active service, in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air
539 Force, [or] Coast Guard or Space Force or any women's auxiliary branch
540 thereof, organized pursuant to an Act of Congress, or in the Connecticut
541 National Guard.

542 Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 4-61bb of the general statutes is
543 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
544 *1, 2023*):

545 (a) For the purposes of this section, "licensing authority" means the
546 Department of Consumer Protection, the Department of Emergency
547 Services and Public Protection, the Labor Department, the Department
548 of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Public Health, the Board of
549 Regents for Higher Education, the Office of Higher Education, the Board

550 of Trustees of The University of Connecticut or the Police Officer
 551 Standards and Training Council; "service member" means a member of
 552 the armed forces or the National Guard or a veteran; "armed forces" has
 553 the same meaning as [set forth] provided in section 27-103, as amended
 554 by this act; and "veteran" has the same meaning as provided in section
 555 27-103, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2023	27-103(a)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2023	1-219(a)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2023	9-24
Sec. 4	October 1, 2023	9-134
Sec. 5	October 1, 2023	27-102b
Sec. 6	October 1, 2023	31-3uu(a)(7)
Sec. 7	October 1, 2023	46b-56e(a)(1)
Sec. 8	October 1, 2023	51-49h(c)
Sec. 9	October 1, 2023	1-24
Sec. 10	October 1, 2023	1-38
Sec. 11	October 1, 2023	12-81(20) to (26)
Sec. 12	October 1, 2023	12-93
Sec. 13	October 1, 2023	12-94
Sec. 14	October 1, 2023	12-128
Sec. 15	October 1, 2023	27-122b(a)
Sec. 16	October 1, 2023	4-61bb(a)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Sections 9 to 16, inclusive, were reordered for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Constituent Units of Higher Education	Tuition - Revenue Loss	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Potential Cost	None	Potential Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Various Municipalities	Grand List Reduction	None	Potential Minimal

Explanation

The bill expands the general definitions of “armed forces” to include members of the U.S. Space Force, which may increase the number of individuals qualifying for certain benefits available to veterans, including constituent unit tuition waivers and the Veteran’s Property Tax Exemption. Consequently, the bill results in a potential minimal revenue loss beginning in FY 24 to the constituent units and a potential minimal grand list reduction to certain municipalities beginning in FY 25. The bill also results in a potential General Fund cost beginning in FY 25 within the Office of Policy and Management, associated with the Property Tax Relief for Veterans account. It is anticipated that any revenue loss or cost incurred would be minimal as there are few Space Force veterans and no Space Force facilities in New England.

The bill could result in a potential tuition fund revenue loss to the

constituent units of higher education beginning in FY 24, associated with providing tuition waivers to Space Force veterans.

The bill could also result in a grand list reduction in any municipality where a Space Force veteran receives this exemption, beginning in FY 25, given a constant mill rate.

The bill may also impact the General Fund's Property Tax Relief for Veterans account beginning in FY 25. There was a lapse in the account in FY 22 and FY 23 as less claims were made than that of the appropriated amount. To the extent the bill results in increased number of claims, this account may have a lower or no lapse. If the amount of claims exceeds the appropriation then each town's grant from the account would be reduced proportionately as the grant is capped.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation in constituent unit tuition and real property assessment values, and the number of qualifying members of the U.S. Space Force.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5510*****AN ACT INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE IN REFERENCES TO THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands the general definitions of “armed forces” and “members of armed forces” under state law to include the U.S. Space Force (USSF) and makes related technical and conforming changes.

In doing so, the bill includes in the general statutory definition of “veteran” Space Force members (i.e., “guardians”) who (1) are honorably discharged, (2) are discharged under honorable conditions, or (3) received an other than honorable discharge due to a qualifying condition. Therefore, it ensures these guardians access to various state veterans’ benefits and programs such as property tax exemptions, tuition benefits, and burial in a state veterans’ cemetery.

Under current law, “armed forces” means the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Air Force, and any of their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard when under federal service.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

BACKGROUND***U.S. Space Force***

In December 2019, Congress established the USSF as a new branch of the armed forces organized under the umbrella of the U.S. Air Force (in a similar manner as the Marines and the U.S. Navy). It is an independent entity that organizes, trains, and manages its own operational force. However, it relies on the Air Force for a large portion of its enabling

functions (e.g., logistics, base support, technology support, and financial management).

Federal Law

The federal government expanded the statutory definition of “armed forces” in 2019 to include USSF members, thereby generally extending to guardians eligibility for federal benefits (10 U.S.C. § 101). It is currently in the process of making related technical and conforming changes to various federal statutes and regulations.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (02/16/2023)